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AN ACCOUNT OF THE *Eſtabliſhment of the Commiſſioners* FOR THE Relief of Poor PROSELYTES.

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Establishment of the Corporation

FOR THE

Relief of Poor Persons.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE *Establishment of the Commissioners* For the Relief of POOR PROSELYTES: WITH An ABSTRACT of their PROCEEDINGS from the 30th of *April*, 1717, to the 30th of *April*, 1718.

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AN ACCOUNT OF *The Eſtabliſhment of the Commiſſioners for the Relief of Poor* PROSELYTES, &c.

THE want of a Regular Method in *Great-Britain*, for relieving ſincere Converts from the Church of *Rome*, has been too juſtly complained of ever ſince the Reformation. And indeed the frequent Convulſions, which this Proteſtant Church and Nation has been thrown into in every Reign ſince, may have been too much the occaſion of drawing off the Attention of our Prelates and Others, however Zealous againſt the Idolatries and other dangerous Errors of the Church of *Rome*, from Providing for the Reception of thoſe, who ſhall from Time to Time forſake its Communion.

But the Happy Settlement of the Crown in the *Proteſtant Line*, excluſive of *Papiſts* for ever, leaving

ving us more at Liberty to take under our Care, the providing for Converts from *Popery*, in like manner as has been ſo very laudably done in ſeveral other Proteſtant Churches: It has been thought a ſuitable Return to Providence, after our own Converſion, now to think of Strengthening our Brethren; And it ſeems to be a more ſeaſonable Undertaking at this time, not only becauſe there is now a more general Diſpoſition, among many Learned and other Conſiderable Perſons, in Popiſh Countries, to embrace the Reformation; But the Eyes of ſuch throughout *Europe* are turned upon this Happy Church, under its preſent Proteſtant Settlement, as their moſt Deſirable and Safe *Aſylum*.

In every Generation ſince the Reformation, it has pleaſed GOD to open the Eyes of many Votaries to the Romiſh Superſtitions, and to bring them to ſuch a Senſe of the Idolatries they were bred in, as to become ſhining Examples of Piety, and to create in them a juſt Eſteem for the invaluable Privileges acquired to the Chriſtian Church, by the glorious Reformers of it from Papal Darkneſs.

But ſuch is the Misfortune of ſeveral of thoſe who have been happily convinced of the Romiſh Errors, that ſome of them were even compelled, for want of Bread, to make their Peace with the Church of *Rome*, after they had publickly, and in a very ſolemn Manner, renounced her Errors: Which demonſtrates, that among the many Checks the Reformation has received of late Years, the want of a Fund, to Relieve ſuch as, for pure Conſcience, forſake the Romiſh Communion, to embrace the Proteſtant Faith, is none of the leaſt.

It is hard to imagine how a Perſon, forſaking the Religion of all his Friends (and by that means, not only putting himſelf quite out of their Favour, but exaſperating them againſt him in the higheſt Degree) can continue in our Communion, without very extraordinary Aſſiſtance from above, unleſs he be received by us with Kindneſs and Commiſeration.

And it is yet much more difficult to conceive, how a Perſon, in thoſe Circumſtances, coming from a Foreign Country, amongſt ſtrange People, can be able to provide a Maintenance for Himſelf and Family, whilſt he remains not only ignorant of the Language, but deſtitute of Friends, and all other poſſible Means to get into Buſineſs; at the ſame time, that he is ſubjected to all the Malice and ſubtil Circumventions of thoſe who bitterly Hate and Perſecute him on account of his having forſaken their Communion.

The Bountiful Proviſion which the *Romiſh* Church makes, to gain over Proſelytes to their Faith, is an Example that ought ſo far to be regarded by Proteſtants, as to induce them to preſerve from periſhing thro' Want ſuch Converts, who having ſincerely abandoned their Errors, and embraced the Purity of the Goſpel as profeſſed in theſe Kingdoms, are deſtitute of the Neceſſaries of Life, and unable to Support themſelves; and the Difference being ſo wide between a True and an Erroneous Faith, a Pure and Corrupt Worſhip of GOD; it may appear to Proteſtants, not unreaſonable *ab hoſte doceri*, and to turn againſt the Papiſts their own Offenſive Weapons.

The Pious and Charitable Endeavours of his Grace the Lord Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord Biſhop of *London*, ſeem to demonſtrate, that a good Spirit from above is at preſent animating

mating the Hearts of Godly People to put such Methods into Practice, for promoting the true Christian Faith, as is most agreeable to Reason, and the sincere Wishes of every truly Zealous and Honest Protestant.

And had not the Wisdom of those excellent Prelates put them on finding out an Expedient for laying a Foundation towards establishing a Charity of so extensive Use to the Protestant Religion, the ardent Desires of many devout Souls had still wanted the Gratification at present afforded, by the beginning of an Undertaking so truly Noble and Generous.

In order therefore to assist these Objects of Charity, who have been hitherto unprovided, till some other means could be found, it was proposed to charge the Fund of 15000 *l. per Annum*, granted out of the Civil List for the Relief of the poor *French* Protestants, with the Sum of 400 *l. per Annum*, rather than any longer defer beginning a Work, which, it was evident, would tend to the Honour and Advancement of our Holy Religion.

And his Majesty having been graciously pleased, upon an humble Application to him by the above-mentioned Prelates, to consent that the said Sum of 400 *l.* might be deducted out of the aforesaid 15000 *l.* as a Foundation for a Fund towards the Relief of Converts of any Nation from the Church of *Rome*; their said Lordships were pleased, in Conjunction with the Right Honourable the two Lords Chief Justices, pursuant to his Majesty's gracious Intentions, to authorize by a Commission bearing Date the 24th of *April*, 1717, a certain Number of Persons, both of Clergy and Laity, to distribute the same to such as should appear to be truly worthy of it, and

Objects

Objects of Charity within the Rules prescribed in their Commission; and at the same time did empower them to invite other Persons to their Assistance, as well as to receive the Benevolence of any private well-disposed Persons towards this truly Christian Work, superadded to the Royal Bounty for this charitable Purpose.

The RULES prescribed in the said Commission are as follows, viz.

I.

'THAT the Commissioners shall meet once 'a Month on such a Day, and at such a 'Place as they, or the greatest Part of them (not 'being less than five in the whole) shall think 'to be most proper and convenient.

II.

'THAT no Commissioner shall receive any 'private Applications, or make any private Pro-'mises to any Proselytes, but shall direct all such 'Persons as shall make any Request to them, 'to come to the said Publick Meetings of the 'Commissioners, where their Case shall be pub-'lickly examined, and it shall be in common 'agreed what is most fitting to be done for them.

III.

'THAT no Proselyte shall be admitted to 'receive any Benefit from this Charity, but such 'as are at this time in *England*, or, having been 'here formerly, have been forced to leave the 'Kingdom for want of Subsistance, or shall 'hereafter come directly from their own Coun-'try wherein they lived whilst they were of the '*Roman* Communion, excluding all such as have 'had any Settlements in any other Protestant 'Country since their Conversion, and have left 'such their Settlements since this Establishment.

IV.

'And whereas the Moneys hitherto advanced for this charitable Work will not reach to the Maintenance of Families, no Perſon ſhall be the more conſidered for having a Family, unleſs upon ſome extraordinary Occaſion, which ſhall move the Commiſſioners for that time only ſo to do; and the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall not continue to aſſiſt any of the Proſelytes who ſhall marry, without having previouſly acquainted them with ſuch their Intentions, and obtained their Conſent.

V.

'That no Proſelyte ſhall be aſſiſted any longer than till he be in a Condition to provide for himſelf, or that he ſhall by the Commiſſioners, or any others, be offered a Mean for his ſubſiſting without this Charity.

VI.

'That the Commiſſioners ſhall be enabled at their Monthly Meeting to add any other Perſons, who ſhall be judged proper to be join'd with themſelves in the Diſtribution of this Charity.

VII.

'That the better to diſcover the Merits or Demerits of the Proſelytes who ſhall at any time come over, the Commiſſioners ſhall be enabled to chooſe Correſponding Members out of the moſt eminent Proteſtants in Foreign Parts.

VIII.

'That the Commiſſioners ſhall be enabled to make ſuch Rules for the carrying on their pious Ends, as they ſhall think convenient: Provided always, that no Perſon ſhall be choſen into this Commiſſion, nor any ſuch Rules made,

' made, but by the Votes of five at leaſt of the ' Commiſſioners.

THE Commiſſioners, in purſuance of this Commiſſion, begun to meet at *White-Hall*, *Tueſday* the 30th of *April*, 1717; and after appointing the neceſſary Officers, conſidered of ſeveral other Regulations fit to be obſerved in executing their Commiſſion, which, tho' made at ſeveral times in the Courſe of their Proceedings, are here exhibited in one view.

ORDERS relating to the Commiſſioners in general.

I.

' THAT the general Meeting of this Society ' ſhall be upon the firſt *Wedneſday* in every ' Month; and if it ſhould happen that there be ' a Meeting of the Governours of Queen *Ann*'s ' Bounty, on that Day, then the Commiſſioners ' for the Proſelytes ſhall meet the following ' Day.

II.

' THAT all the Members of this Society ſhall ' contribute a certain yearly Sum towards the ' Support of the *poor Proſelytes*; and for the ' future none ſhall be admitted Members of ' this Society, without ſubſcribing a certain an- ' nual Sum, to be paid during their Stay in the ' ſaid Society.

III.

' THAT there ſhall be a Rotation of Chair- ' men; and the firſt or ſenior Member, as they ' ſtand in the Commiſſion, or are elected after- ' wards, of ſuch as are preſent, ſhall take the ' Chair at the reſpective Meetings of the Society ' or Committee thereof.

IV.

'THAT the Chairman, at every Meeting of 'the Society or Committee, ſhall take Care 'that the Debates be regular and without Heat, 'that no Member interrupt another, and that 'he who ſpeaks firſt be heard firſt.

V.

'THAT when any Gentleman is propoſed 'for a Commiſſioner, he ſtand propoſed two 'ſeveral Meetings; and then, if it be thought 'fit to proceed, two of the Board be deſired to 'enquire the Character of the Perſon propoſed, 'whether he be of a ſober Life, and charitably 'diſpoſed; after whoſe Report the Board may 'proceed, by Balloting, to chooſe or refuſe ſuch 'Perſon, and that no Gentleman be appriz'd of 'his being propoſed, till after his Election.

VI.

'THAT at every general Meeting, before the 'Society proceed on Buſineſs, the following 'Prayer be uſed, *viz.*

ALmighty God, who ſheweſt to them that be in Error the Light of thy Truth, to the intent that they may return into the Way of Righteouſneſs: Grant unto all them that are admitted into the Fellowſhip of Chriſt's Religion, that they may eſchew thoſe Things that are contrary to their Profeſſion, and follow all ſuch Things as are agreeable to the ſame, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

'AND before the Society riſe, the Prayer 'following, *viz.*

O Merciful God, who haſt made all Men, and hateſt nothing that thou haſt made, nor wouldeſt the Death of a Sinner, but rather that he ſhould be convert-

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ed and live: Have mercy upon all Jews, Turks, Infidels and Hereticks, *and take from them all Ignorance, Hardneſs of Heart, and Contempt of thy Word; and ſo fetch them home (bleſſed Lord!) to thy Flock, that they may be ſaved among the Remnant of the true* Iſraelites, *and be made one Fold under one Shepherd,* Jeſus Chriſt *our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end* Amen.

'And that if no Clergyman be preſent, the 'Chairman read the ſame.

VII.

'THAT when any thing is propoſed for a 'ſtanding Rule, it be propoſed at two ſeveral 'Meetings, and not allowed to be ſuch, till it 'has had the Approbation of a third Meeting.

VIII.

'THAT no Recommendation in Favour of 'any Proſelyte, be received from any Perſon 'who is not a Subſcriber or Benefactor.

ORDERS relating to the Committee.

I.

'THAT a Committee, compos'd of three or 'more of the Commiſſioners, ſhall meet upon 'the laſt *Wedneſday* in every Month, at nine a 'Clock in the Morning, at *Whitehall*, to prepare 'a Report of all Matters that have been conſider'd 'in the ſeveral Meetings of the Preceding Com-'mittees from Time to Time, in order to be laid 'before the General Meeting upon the firſt *Wed-'neſday* in every Month; and all that come are to 'have Voices.

II.

II.

'THAT a Committee be appointed Monthly, 'conſiſting of Seven of the Commiſſioners, by a 'Rotation, according to their Seniority upon the 'Liſt, taking both Columns together (the Lords 'Spiritual and Temporal, Members of Parliament, 'and Gentlemen that live out of the Bills of Mor-'tality, excepted) and that no others be Sum-'mon'd, but that any of the Commiſſioners may 'attend if they pleaſe, and have Voices, and 'that any three be a *Quorum*.

III.

'THAT when any extraordinary Occurrence 'ſhall happen, deſerving the Conſideration of a 'General Meeting, it ſhall be in the Power of 'the Committee in ſuch Caſe, to give Directions 'for Summoning a General Meeting, although 'they ſhould ſtand Adjourn'd to a further Day.

IV.

'THAT at every General Meeting, when 'three Members are preſent, they be a Com-'mittee to prepare Buſineſs for the General 'Meeting.

ORDERS relating to the Treaſurer.

I.

'THAT no Order for the Payment of Mo-'ney, ſhall be accepted by the Treaſurer, nor 'allowed upon the Audit of his Accounts, un-'leſs ſuch Order be Sign'd by the Chairman and 'Secretary.

II.

'THAT the Treaſurer do lay before the 'Board, at every Monthly Meeting, an Account 'of what Money remains in his Hands.

III.

III.

'THAT the Treasurer's Accounts be Audited 'twice Yearly, in the Months of *January* and '*July*; and that three Auditors be appointed 'half-yearly for that Purpose.

ORDERS relating to the Secretary.

I.

'THAT the Minutes of every General Meet-'ing and of every Committee, shall be read at 'the End of each Meeting, and perus'd and sign'd 'by the Chairman, before they be entred into 'the respective Journals.

II.

'THAT two Copies of the Minutes of the 'General Meeting be made, and sent respective-'ly to his Grace the Lord Archbishop of *Can-'terbury*, and the Bishop of *London*, after each 'General Meeting.

III.

'THAT the Secretary, upon any Member's 'desire, or he himself, if he see Occasion, shall 'have Power to Summon a Committee.

IV.

'THAT all the Standing Orders be read 'at every Quarterly Meeting; *viz.* the first '*Wednesdays* in *May*, *August*, *November* and '*February*.

V.

'THAT the Secretary attend his Grace the 'Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord 'Bishop of *London*, once a Quarter, with the 'Books of the Society, in order to acquaint 'them with their Proceedings in the Trust com-'mitted to them.

ORDERS relating to Proſelytes.

I.

'THAT no Proſelyte ſhall partake of this Beneficence, but ſuch Perſons of whoſe Life and Converſation the Commiſſioners, or their Committee, are entirely ſatisfied.

II.

'THAT no Proſelyte ſhall partake of this Beneficence, that hath a Penſion or Allowance, from any other Perſon or Perſons to the value of Ten Pounds *per Annum*, unleſs the Commiſſioners, upon good Conſiderations and extraordinary Caſes, ſhall order otherwiſe.

III.

'THAT any Proſelyte in Orders, who ſhall come over and put on the Gown, without the leave of the Ordinary, and firſt acquainting the Commiſſioners, ſhall be excluded from any Aſſiſtance.

IV.

'THAT no Proſelyte, who hath been in theſe Kingdoms before the Repeal of the Edict of *Nantz*, in 1685, be admitted to any ſhare in this Charity, except upon very extraordinary Occaſions.

V.

'THAT no Proſelyte ought to be aſſiſted by the Commiſſioners, but ſuch Perſons only as have been actually converted from the Popiſh to the Proteſtant Religion.

VI.

'THAT every Proſelyte ſhall be required to declare ingenuouſly to the Commiſſioners or their Committee, whether he hath any Penſion, Salary or Allowance whatever, and what they amount

'amount to; and if it ſhould be afterwards diſcover'd, that he has not declared the plain 'Truth, he ſhall from that time become incapable 'of ever receiving any manner of Aſſiſtance from 'this Society.

VII.

'THAT no certain annual Penſion ſhall be 'allow'd to any Proſelyte, but only to each one '*pro re nata*, and with regard to their preſent 'Circumſtances, in order to enable them to get 'their Bread by their own Induſtry, according 'to ſuch Trades and Callings as they have been 'educated in, or to aſſiſt them to begin and carry on any Lawful Employment.

VIII.

'THAT ſuch Proſelytes as are entirely diſabled by Age, or other Infirmities, from getting their Livelyhood, ſhall be Relieved preferrably to all other.

IX.

'THAT none of the Proſelytes that are come 'over within the ſpace of one Year, and of 'whoſe former Behaviour the Society cannot be 'fully ſatisfied, ſhall receive any further Relief 'from them than what has been already order'd, 'until an account can be procured from thoſe 'Places where ſuch Proſelytes have liv'd; and 'that all other Proſelytes, who come over for 'the future, may have a Weekly Allowance not 'exceeding Five Shillings, if they want it, according to the Diſcretion of the Committee, 'until ſuch time is out as is ſufficient to get Cirtificates of their former Life and Converſation.

X.

'THAT all Petitions from the Proſelytes to 'the Commiſſioners be in *Engliſh*.

XI.

'THAT all Proſelytes, who ſhall receive 'any Bounty from the Commiſſioners, be ſtrict-'ly obſervant of their Morals, upon the Peril of 'being excluded from any future Allowance 'from them; particularly, that they reſort to 'ſome place of Publick Worſhip every Lord's 'Day; that they avoid Drunkenneſs, Uncleanneſs, Unlawful Gaming, Swearing and Curſing; all diſorderly Converſation, keeping of 'Ill-hours, or any other Offences againſt the 'Laws of the Land; and that a Note of their 'Lodgings be left with the Meſſengers of the 'Commiſſioners, that enquiry may be made of 'their Behaviour.

XII.

'THAT all Proſelytes, who ſhall apply to the 'Commiſſioners for Relief, be directed at the 'time of ſuch Application, to draw up a Short 'Hiſtorical Account of their Converſion, and 'deliver the ſame to the Commiſſioners, or to 'whom they ſhall appoint.

XIII.

'THAT no Proſelyte whatſoever, ſhall be 'entituled to receive Relief from the Society be-'fore He or She has taken the Oaths to the Go-'vernment, to be tender'd to them by ſuch of 'the Commiſſioners as are Juſtices of the Peace; 'and this Tender to be made in the Preſence of 'the Commiſſioners, at their General Meeting, 'or Committee.

XIV.

'THAT when any Proſelyte ſhall be put Ap-'prentice, the Maſter do give an Obligation to 'the Secretary or any one of the Commiſſioners, 'that he will teach him his Trade, and take 'care of him during the Time agreed for.

XV.

XV.

'THAT although in extraordinary Caſes of 'Sickneſs, or after Death, an Allowance may 'be given to pay Debts contracted by ſuch 'Sickneſs, or Funeral Charges of any Proſe-'lytes; yet no other Debts contracted by 'Proſelytes ſhall be paid after their Death.

IN the beginning of this Commiſſion, the Commiſſioners laboured under very great Difficulties.

1. THE number of Petitioners, amounting to above fourſcore the firſt Month, was ſo large, and the Fund to ſupply them at firſt ſo ſmall, that it was no eaſie Matter to proportion, according to each Petitioner's real Wants and Merit, a reaſonable Allowance to each one.

2. AMONGST ſo great a Number as crowded altogether at firſt, and applied for Relief, it was extreamly difficult to know each Perſon's true Character, eſpecially of thoſe that were newly come over; and to find out who were ſincere Converts, and who were falſe Pretenders: To this End, and for the better anſwering the Deſign of the Eſtabliſhment, as well as for the greater Satisfaction of the Pious and Charitable Contributors, in Proceſs of Time the Commiſſioners reſolved, by the means of two Secretaries for Foreign Correſpondence, to adviſe from Time to Time with ſome of the moſt eminent Proteſtants abroad, to get a true Light into the Characters of ſuch Proſelytes as ſhould come over for the future; and to Correſpond upon the ſame account, with the Commiſſioners and Societies eſtabliſhed in other Proteſtant Countries, for

the Relief of Converts from the Church of *Rome*.

3. It was a great Burthen to the Society, in its Infancy, to find the whole Number of Proſelytes who offered themſelves, uncapable of getting any thing, immediately, towards their own Maintenance; therefore, tho' Experience has evinced, that ſeveral of them have proved capable of earning a Livelihood, yet this was no eaſe in the firſt Diſtribution.

On this Account, the Commiſſioners were at great Pains to examine into the Diſpoſitions of each of the Proſelytes, that they might be the better able to employ their ſmall Fund to the Relief of all that ſhould be found deſerving. And becauſe it would not have anſwered their Intention to maintain any conſtant Penſioners, they diſpoſed of as many as they could, that were capable of undertaking any ſort of Buſineſs, in ſuch Ways, as beſt ſuited with their Genius, Capacity, and Circumſtances. And as it has been the conſtant Care of the Commiſſioners to put them in that way, they have ſpared no Pains for it, and have always made it their Buſineſs, to give as great an Encouragement, as their ſmall Fund could allow, to thoſe, who having any Talent, ſhew'd their Willingneſs to improve it, in order to be no more a Burthen to the Society.

4. Because Poor Eccleſiaſtick Proſelytes, and other Poor Clergymen already abound, it was a Matter of no ſmall Difficulty for the Society to know how rightly to diſpoſe of the Numbers of that Sort who daily offered themſelves. But till the Commiſſioners could find Ways to provide for ſuch Eccleſiaſticks as already wear the Gown,

they

they thought it expedient to forbid the Proſelyte Clergy from putting on the Gown without leave not only obtained from the Ordinary, but alſo from the Commiſſioners; by this means ſuch of thoſe Eccleſiaſticks as are found capable of Undertaking any Buſineſs, or Teaching Languages, Writing, *&c.* are with more Eaſe Provided for and Subſiſted by the Society, than if they put on the Gown, without ſome Aſſurance of being employ'd in the Miniſterial Function.

5. But of all the Obſtacles that have retarded the Commiſſioners in their Proceedings, none has appeared more puzzling than to find out and ſeparate the Tares from the Wheat, the True Proſelytes from the Cheats. In this Caſe, the detecting ſeveral falſe Pretenders ſufficiently diſcovers, that the Care of the Society has been determined with no leſs Application towards this Point, than has already appeared in the preceding Articles. The cunning Artifices made uſe of to impoſe on the Commiſſioners, make it a matter of doubt, whether the Pope and his Emiſſaries may not be at the bottom of their Contrivances; and whether that Church, which is very jealous of any thing that tends to diminiſh her Power, may not with the utmoſt Craft be forming Stratagems to blow up the whole Proceedings. The Zeal which the Commiſſioners ſhewed to detect Scandalous Perſons and Falſe Pretenders, fill'd the Hearts of all thoſe whoſe Hopes of gaining Money by crafty Deſigns were fruſtrated, with bitter Malice, both againſt the whole Society in general, and againſt ſome few Members of it in particular. When the weak Efforts of theſe wicked Adverſaries, levell'd againſt

againſt the Society in general, proved vain and inſignificant, the whole Force of their Invectives was diſcharged againſt ſome few of the Commiſſioners in particular; but as this Attempt proved as vain as it was falſe and wicked, ſo it only animated the Zeal of the Commiſſioners to be more Circumſpect and Cautious, how they gave credit to every Perſon, who came without good and ſure Recommendations, to preſent himſelf to them as a Proſelyte.

THE Society having in ſome meaſure ſurmounted theſe Difficulties, had Leiſure to apply themſelves more immediately to thoſe matters which concerned the good Government of the Proſelytes in general: Therefore the firſt thing that was judged expedient, was, to provide for their Inſtruction and Confirmation in the Proteſtant Religion. To this End a worthy Divine was appointed, and a Salary (tho' ſmall, yet as much as the low Stock of the Society could afford) allowed him for inſtructing Proſelytes, and examining ſuch as on their firſt Pretences made Applications to the Board for Relief, with Directions at the ſame time to enquire into their Lives and Converſations here, and to give from time to time to the Society, and particularly to the Lords the Biſhops and other Divines that are Members thereof, ſuch an Account of his Proceedings herein, as ſhould be demanded of him. Moreover, this Gentleman, jointly with the Secretaries for foreign Correſpondence, has incumbent on him the Care of Learning from Abroad the ſeveral Characters of Converts coming from diſtant Countries.

THE Commiſſioners having thus far proceeded to take a general Care of the Souls of the Proſelytes,

ſelytes, thought it likewiſe convenient to provide ſome Means to relieve their Bodily Infirmities in caſe of Sickneſs: Therefore a worthy Phyſician, one of their own Body, offering his Advice *gratis*, an Apothecary was treated with, and brought in Propoſals and Articles, which were agreed to by the Society, for adminiſtring of Phyſick at the Publick Charge, to ſuch Proſelytes as by the Direction of one of the Commiſſioners, or the Secretary, ſhould be ſent to him.

And that nothing might be wanting to put the Proſelytes in general in a way to maintain themſelves, it was judged expedient to agree with a Maſter of the *Engliſh* Language, who having an annual Salary allowed for that Purpoſe, obliges himſelf to inſtruct all foreign Proſelytes in the Tongue, that thereby they may be the better enabled to follow any Employment, be bound to, or ſerve *Engliſh* Maſters, or be otherwiſe put in Condition of getting a Livelihood in the *Britiſh* Dominions.

The annual Sum allowed by the Government being but 400 *l.* this could never anſwer all the Deſigns of the Society; therefore to increaſe their Stock, they uſed all poſſible means to promote annual Subſcriptions, as well amongſt themſelves as other Religious and Charitable Perſons; and tho' great Difficulties have ariſen, inſomuch as to diſcourage ſeveral Perſons, who could ſcarce hope that they were to be ſurmounted, yet with the Bleſſing of God, and the indefatigable Care of ſome Noble and Worthy Gentlemen, the Subſcriptions have been begun and carried on with Succeſs; and it appears by the Rolls, that the Sums that have been ſubſcribed from the 30th *April* 1717, to the 30th *April* 1718,

	l.	s.	d.
1718. in order to be continued Yearly amount to	194	19	00
BESIDES these annual Subſcriptions, there have been ſeveral Caſual Benefactions, which in the laſt twelve Months amount to	22	2	00

FOR which Benefactions, the Thanks of the Commiſſioners have been returned to the Perſon known, by the Hands of thoſe who brought or reported them; and thoſe Charitable Perſons who have thought fit to conceal their Names, are hereby deſired to accept of the Society's moſt grateful Acknowledgments.

FROM the State of the Treaſurer's Accounts, at the cloſe of the Year, it appears, that there has been paid into his Hands as follows; *viz.*

	l.	s.	d.
From the Government	400	0	0
Annual Subſcriptions which the Treaſurer has received and accounted for	294	14	6
Caſual Benefactions	22	2	0
Sum Total	716	16	6

IT appears by the Journal of the Commiſſioners, that the Proſelytes who have been aſſiſted within this laſt Year, including thoſe that have been bound Apprentices, and otherwiſe provided for, are in all —— 100.

OF which Number the Eccleſiaſticks are —40.

AND thoſe of the Laity —— —— 60.

OUT of the whole Number, them that have been bound Apprentices at the Charge of the Society, are —— —— —— —— 7.

AND provided for otherwiſe, ſo as to be no more a Burthen upon the Society, —— 29.

THE

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
THE Money laid out upon the foregoing Accounts, including Salaries for Inſtructor, Clerk, Maſter of Language, Apothecary, *&c.* and other Expences relating to the Commiſſion, from the 30th of *April* 1717, to the 30th of *April* 1718, amounts to	660:	4 :	5
AND there remains in the Hands of the Treaſurer upon the account of the reſt of the Year 1718.	56 :	12 :	1
	716 :	16 :	6

HERE it may be proper to clear one Circumſtance in the foregoing Account, *viz.* That the annual Subſcriptions, according to *Page* 24, amount only to 194*l.* 19*s.* whereas it appears that the Treaſurer has accounted for 294 *l.* 14 *s.* 6 *d.* received within the laſt twelve Months. The reaſon of which is, That the Treaſurer has received for two Years Subſcriptions from ſeveral of thoſe who ſubſcribed in the Year 1717.

BY what has been already ſaid, it will ſufficiently appear, that no Care has been wanting on the Part of the Commiſſioners, for eſtabliſhing ſuch a Foundation as may prove uſeful and laſting; but notwithſtanding this good OEconomy on their Part, and that they have provided ſo many, by putting them in a way to provide for themſelves; notwithſtanding this, the Number of Proſelytes increaſes ſo faſt on their Hands, that without ſome Additional Supplies, it will be next to impoſſible to carry on this good Deſign.

'TWAS a prudent Foreſight of this, that put the Commiſſioners on making Application to the Government, to have ſome Part of the Eſtates forfeited (for having been applied to Superſtitious Uſes) ſet apart for the Encouragement of the Proteſtant Religion as by Law eſtabliſhed, and for the ſupport of Converts from Popery; to which End the following Reaſons were drawn up, in order to have them laid before the King and Parliament.

REASONS humbly offer'd to Conſideration, why a ſmall Part of the Eſtates given to Superſtitious Uſes, and now forfeited to the Crown, may properly be applied to the Relief of ſuch Perſons as Renounce the Errors of the Church of Rome, *to Embrace the Proteſtant Religion, as profeſſed in the Church of* England, *and are thereby reduced to great Poverty.*

I.

THAT when a Proviſion is made for Relieving ſuch Perſons, it may encourage ſome of the *Romiſh* Communion, who are able to make great Diſcoveries of concealed Eſtates given to Superſtitious Uſes, to diſcover the ſame.

II.

THAT till ſome Publick Proviſion is made for Proſelytes from the Church of *Rome*, they muſt depend on Private Charity, already over-burthened, and be ſo far a Nuiſance to the Publick.

III.

THAT a Publick Proviſion for Proſelytes will help to take off a Reproach of the Reformation in *Great Britain*, which has hitherto left all thoſe, that quit the *Romiſh* Communion in a deſtitute Condition to ſtarve, or when reduced to extream Neceſſity, to the miſerable Hardſhip of returning to the Communion they had left.

IV

IV.

THAT as Equity makes it reaſonable to Provide for the Wives and Children of Rebels out of Eſtates taken from Rebels; ſo a ſmall Part of what is taken from Superſtitious Uſes may juſtly be apply'd to Pious Uſes, in Relieving thoſe, who, for the ſake of a good Conſcience, ſhall renounce their former Errors and Superſtition.

THESE Reaſons being conſidered, 'tis humbly hoped, that ſome Portion of what ſhall ariſe from the Forfeiture of the Eſtates given to Superſtitious Uſes, may be applied to the Uſe herein mentioned, as being conceived of great Service to the Nation, and Honour and Advantage to our Holy Religion.

BUT notwithſtanding his Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to Countenance an Application of this Nature; and the Well-wiſhers to this Charity were in no ſmall Hopes, for the Reaſons before-mentioned, that ſome Allowance might be made out of a Fund reſcued from Superſtitious Uſes, for recovering Votaries from that Superſtition; it happened at the Juncture when it was propoſed, that other Affairs of Importance to the Publick, made it neceſſary to Poſtpone the Conſideration thereof till another Opportunity.

HOWEVER the Commiſſioners conceive at preſent ſome Hopes, that the Hearts of ſeveral Charitable and truly Pious Chriſtians may, by the Bleſſing of God, be in time ſo opened towards the forwarding this Good Work, that a ſufficient Maintenance may be rais'd to ſupport many Proſelytes; and that the Fund of the Society may be large enough to make a Proviſion accor-

ding to the Rank and Quality of Perſons; for, as it may be well preſumed, that ſeveral Papiſts, of the firſt Rank for Piety and Learning (particularly within theſe Kingdoms) would embrace the Reformation as Eſtabliſhed in *Great Britain*, were they not afraid of Starving; ſo 'tis a matter worthy the Zeal of every Charitable Perſon to contribute towards ſo good a Work as this, which is likely to turn ſo many Hundreds, of all Conditions, from the Superſtition and Error, which ſome of them are already heartily weary of, and would quit, could they have any proſpect of Subſiſtance.

THE Means for encreaſing the Society's Stock, by chooſing as Commiſſioners, Perſons of great Intereſt and Bounty, and daily adding to their Number ſuch as are willing to contribute to ſo good an Undertaking, has proved none of the moſt inconſiderable, towards bringing this Affair to what it is at preſent advanced.

HAVING in this ABSTRACT let the Reader into as clear and conciſe a View of the whole Proceedings of the Commiſſioners, as the Subject would admit of; nothing remains now, but to ſtir up in the Minds of Charitable and Well-diſpoſed Chriſtians, a Zeal for carrying on, and contributing towards this excellent Deſign; and ſure in a Proteſtant Country, no Argument need be inſiſted on to incite an Imitation of that bleſſed Copy, which our Great Maſter and Saviour has left us, who ſpent his whole Life in Converting and Inſtructing thoſe that labour'd under *Ignorance and Error*.

THE Reward for ſuch Pious Zeal and Concern is great even in this Life; for he that Sows plenteouſly ſhall Reap plenteouſly, and ſhall receive

ceive Seven-fold: *Good Meaſure running over, ſhall Men give into his Boſom*, Luke vi. 38. But what are Temporal Bleſſings to the Glories of ſhining in an uncorruptible Kingdom, which he (and it might almoſt be ſaid, he only) is entituled to, who extends his Compaſſion to the Souls and Bodies of his Fellow-Creatures.

Is it not Prudence? Is it not Wiſdom in the higheſt Degree to diſpoſe of Money ſo as to purchaſe an Everlaſting Title and Eternal Eſtate; inſtead of laying it up where *Moth and Ruſt do corrupt, and Thieves break through and Steal?*

When all Humane Stocks and Treaſures fail, and Land ceaſes to bring forth its Encreaſe, *they that be wiſe ſhall ſhine as the Brightneſs of the Firmament; and they that turn many to Righteouſneſs, as the Stars for ever and ever*, Dan. xii. 3.

A LIST

A LIST of the Commiſſioners for relieving Poor *Proſelytes*, digeſted into an Alphabetical Order.

A.

THE *Reverend Dr.* Aſtrey.

B.

The Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of Briſtol.
The Honourable Mr. Bonet, *Miniſter from his* Pruſſian *Majeſty.*
The Reverend Dr. Baker.
The Reverend Dr. Beauvoir.
Thomas Blunden, *Eſq;*
The Reverend Mr. Boehm.
The Reverend Dr. Bradford.
William Bradſhaigh, *Eſq;*
The Reverend Dr. Bray.
Whitlocke Bulſtrode, *Eſq;*

C.

The Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of Carliſle,
The Reverend Dr. Cæſar.
John Chamberlayne, *Eſq;*
The Reverend Mr. La Chapelle.
The Reverend Mr. Chatlain.
Thomas Clendon, *Eſq;*
The Reverend Dr. Colnett.

D.

Mr. D'Egulhon.
The Reverend Mr. St. Dennis.
The Reverend Mr. Dolben.
Daniel Dolins, *Eſq;*
The Reverend Mr. Durant.

E.

The Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of Ely.

F.

Mr. De Fonvive.

G.

The Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of Glouceſter, *Lord Almoner.*
The Reverend Dr. Greene.
Charles Greenwood, *Eſq;*
John Gunſton, *Eſq;*

H.

Robert Hales, *Eſq;*
The Reverend Mr. Harris.
The Reverend Dr. Hayley.
The Reverend Mr. Hill.

K.

The Reverend Dr. Kennet, *Dean of* Peterborough.

L.

Sir Thomas Lowther, *Bart.*
James Lowther, *Eſq;*
The Reverend Dr. Lloyd, *Chancellor of* Worceſter.

N.

The Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of Norwich.
Mr. Henry Newman.
Henry Nicholſon, *Eſq;*

P.

The Right Honourable the Lord Percival.
Sir John Philipps, *Bart.*

Q.

The Honourable the Marquis Du Quêne.

S.

The Right Reverend the Lord Biſhop of Sarum.
Colonel Savary.
Dr. Silveſter, *M. D.*
Dr. Slare, *M. D.*
James Smith, *Eſq;*

T.

Charles Talbot, *Esq*;
The Reverend Mr. Thorold.
William Tillard, *Esq*;
Mr. De Tudert.

W.

The Reverend Dr. Waddington.
The Reverend Dr. Wickart, *Dean of* Winchester.
The Reverend Dr. Wilcocks.

FINIS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM